

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) variant dimer consisting of a first monomer and a second monomer, each monomer comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity with amino acids 11 to 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1, retaining a cysteine (Cys) at or corresponding to position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (Cys-116), wherein the Cys at or corresponding to position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (Cys-116) of each monomer is disulfide-bonded to an additional extraneous Cys, and wherein at least one monomer lacks ~~possesses~~ a glycosylation site at or corresponding to positions 75-77 of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~that has been eliminated~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The VEGF dimer of claim 1 wherein the Cys residue at or corresponding to position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (Cys-116) in at least one of said first monomer or second monomers, or both, is disulfide-bonded to a peptide of 2-5 amino acids.

3. (Original) The VEGF dimer of claim 2 wherein said peptide is glutathione.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The VEGF dimer of claim 1 wherein said first and second monomers comprise amino acids 4 to 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. (Original) The VEGF dimer of claim 1 wherein said first and second monomers comprise amino acids 1 to 120 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

7. (Original) The VEGF dimer of claim 1 wherein said first and second monomers comprise amino acids 1 to 121 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

8. (Original) The VEGF dimer of claim 1 wherein said first and second monomers comprise amino acids 5 to 120 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

9. (Original) The VEGF dimer of claim 1 wherein the length of at least one of said first and second monomers does not exceed 121 amino acids.

10. (Original) The VEGF dimer of claim 9 wherein the length of each of said first and second monomers does not exceed 121 amino acids.

11. (Original) The VEGF dimer of claim 10 wherein the length of each of said first and second monomers is between 110 and 121 amino acids.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) The VEGF dimer of claim 1 wherein said first and second monomers are unglycosylated.

14. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) dimer consisting of a first monomer and a second monomer, each monomer comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity with amino acids 11 to 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein at least one monomer lacks ~~possesses~~ a glycosylation site at or corresponding to positions 75-77 of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~that has been eliminated~~, and wherein at least one monomer ~~retaining~~ retains a cysteine (Cys) at or corresponding to position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (Cys-116), wherein the Cys at or corresponding to position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (Cys-116) ~~of each monomer~~ is disulfide bonded to an additional extraneous Cys, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

15. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 14 wherein the Cys residue at or corresponding to position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (Cys-116) in at least one of said first monomer or said second monomers is part of a peptide of 2-5 amino acids.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 15 wherein said peptide is glutathione.

17. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 16 wherein each monomer is disulfide bonded through the Cys residue at or corresponding to position 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1 (Cys-116) to a glutathione moiety.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 14 wherein said first and second monomers comprise amino acids 4 to 116 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

19. (Original) The composition of claim 14 wherein said first and second monomers comprise amino acids 1 to 120 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

20. (Original) The composition of claim 14 wherein said first and second monomers comprise amino acids 1 to 121 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

21. (Original) The composition of claim 14 wherein said first and second monomers comprise amino acids 5 to 120 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

22-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 14 ~~24~~ wherein said first and second monomers comprise an N-terminal methionine group.

26-34 (Cancelled)

35-74 (Cancelled)